Reviewer’s report

Title: "Everything else comes first": A mixed-methods analysis of barriers to health behaviors among military spouses

Version: 0 Date: 09 Jul 2018

Reviewer: M Waller

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and well written manuscript. The research question is original and the conclusions are supported by the findings.

I have some minor comments which the authors may choose to address.

1. One of the BMC questions was ‘Does the work include the necessary controls?’. The study presented does not include any controls, however, the authors do compare their findings in the discussion to civilian studies. Would a study which compared the barriers between military and civilian spouses be of interest to try and determine which barriers were unique to, or more prevalent in, military groups? If the authors agree maybe this could be suggested in the Discussion section.

2. I wondered whether the paragraph at the bottom of Page 17, start of Page 18 was overreaching. "The present study adds to this literature by demonstrating that these moves were not only an ongoing source of stress and uncertainty for military spouses, but they also negatively impacted on their diet and exercise patterns........". Do you have the data to back this up? In Table 4 'Transient lifestyle' (e.g. moving) was only listed as a top five barrier under the 'Connection' heading (not under PA or Diet), and there was no comment in the results section regarding a link between diet and moving.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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